



# ARBV STATEMENT OF REGULATORY APPROACH

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Architects  
Registration Board  
of Victoria

APRIL 2026

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Architects  
Registration Board  
of Victoria



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## OVERVIEW

This Statement of Regulatory Approach sets out the approach of the Architects Registration Board of Victoria ('the ARBV'). It explains to architects and architectural firms and other stakeholders how the ARBV carries out its regulatory functions.

The ARBV's approach to regulation is based on a commitment to upholding the highest standards of competence and integrity in the professional practice of architecture and engaging with architects, consumers, co-regulators and government to enhance the quality and safety of the built environment for all Victorians.

Parliament House  
Architect: Peter Kerr and John George Knight  
Traditional Land Owners: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung



# ARBV'S ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

Established in 1923, the ARBV administers the Architects Act 1991 ('the Act'), Architects Regulations 2026 ('the Regulations'), which includes the Victorian Architects Code of Professional Conduct ('the Code').

## **Statutory functions**

The ARBV's statutory functions include:

- assessing and determining applications for registration from individuals and applications for approval from partnerships and companies
- suspending and cancelling registrations or approvals
- regulating the professional conduct of architects, approved partnerships and approved companies
- preparing guidelines on professional conduct and practice for architects, approved partnerships and approved companies
- publishing information relating to the operation of the ARBV and the Act
- together with the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACAA), administering the Architectural Practice Examination (APE)
- accrediting architectural programs of study within Victoria, in accordance with the established Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure in Australia and New Zealand administered by the AACAA and in doing so, determining qualifications required for registration under the Act
- investigating and bringing proceedings for offences against the Act
- exercising any other powers and carrying out any other functions which are given to it by the Act or which are necessary to implement the Act.

## Regulatory objectives

In carrying out its statutory functions, the ARBV seeks to achieve the following regulatory objectives which are aimed at reducing the risk of harm and protecting consumers and the public at large:

- Professional conduct and practice:
  - Promoting and maintaining high standards of professional conduct and practice for architects in the provision of architectural services, their relations with clients and the public, and their regulatory dealings with the ARBV.
- Representation of architects:
  - Restricting who can represent themselves to be an architect and the use of particular expressions.
- Registration/approval:
  - Ensuring only eligible and suitably qualified architects are registered and partnerships and companies providing architectural services are approved.
- Insurance:
  - Ensuring architects meet statutory requirements to be covered by insurance.
- Accountability:
  - Providing a procedure for handling complaints about professional conduct or practice to maintain professional accountability of architects.
- Supporting architects:
  - Supporting architects to fulfil their duties to engender confidence and respect for the profession and to maintain standards and integrity of the profession.
- Voluntary compliance:
  - Encouraging and supporting voluntary compliance by architects with standards of professional conduct and practice.

# GUIDING VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

The ARBV is guided by its vision, mission and values when carrying out its regulatory functions.

## Our Vision

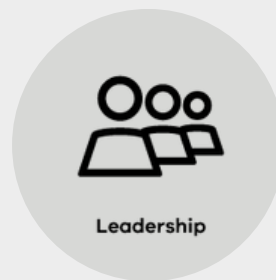
A well-designed, liveable and safe built environment for Victorians.

## Our Mission

We will engage, educate and regulate to ensure architectural services are delivered to high professional standards and contribute to improved building outcomes for the benefit of the community.

## Our Values

The ARBV strives for excellence in delivering high-quality service and built environment outcomes and operates in accordance with the Victorian Public Sector Values of:





### Responsiveness

- providing high-quality services to the Victorian community
- identifying and promoting best practice
- providing frank, impartial, and timely advice to the Government



### Integrity

- being honest, open, and transparent in all dealings
- using powers responsibly
- reporting improper conduct
- avoiding any real or apparent conflicts of interest
- striving to earn and sustain a high level of public trust



### Impartiality

- making decisions and providing advice on merit and without bias, caprice, favouritism, or self interest
- acting fairly by objectively considering all relevant facts and fair criteria
- implementing Government policies and programs equitably



### Accountability

- working to clear objectives in a transparent manner
- accepting responsibility for decisions and actions
- seeking to achieve best use of resources
- submitting to appropriate scrutiny



### Respect for others

- treating others fairly and objectively
- ensuring freedom from discrimination, harassment, and bullying
- using feedback to improve outcomes on an ongoing basis



### Leadership

- actively implementing, promoting, and supporting these values



### Promoting human rights

- making decisions and providing advice consistent with human rights
- actively implementing, promoting, and supporting human rights

# REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

The main regulatory activities undertaken by the ARBV fall within the following broad categories:

- Registration of architects and approval of partnerships and companies
- Proactive regulatory activity, which is regulatory activity taken on the ARBV's own initiative to encourage voluntary compliance and to detect and deter non-compliance
- Reactive regulatory activity, which involves responding to an actual or possible instance of non-compliance



## 1. Registration and approval

The ARBV considers each application for registration or approval, including all information provided by the applicant or available in relation to that application, and, in accordance with the Act's requirements, decides whether or not to:

- Grant the registration or approval
- Request information
- Refuse to grant registration or approval.



## 2. Proactive regulatory activity

Proactive regulatory activity is undertaken as part of the ARBV's business-as-usual operations and may occur in the absence of any evidence of actual or possible non-compliance. This category of regulatory activity includes:

- Education of regulated entities
- Engagement with regulated entities
- Co-operative auditing of regulated entities
- Proactive investigations to determine whether or not non-compliance has occurred

The decision whether or not to undertake a particular type of proactive regulatory activity, including the regulated entities involved, the nature and scope of that activity, and the compliance areas that will be in focus, is guided by the ARBV's risk-based approach. If and when actual or possible non-compliance is detected after undertaking proactive regulatory activity, reactive regulatory activity may be undertaken.



### 3. Reactive regulatory activity

Reactive regulatory activity is action taken by the ARBV to respond to an actual or possible instance of non-compliance in the context of:

- Complaints made to the ARBV by another regulator, client or user of architectural services, or other member of the public
- Detection of actual or possible non-compliance in the context of other activities undertaken by ARBV, including proactive regulatory activity

Reactive regulatory activity may involve a range of responses by ARBV, including:

- Education
- Engagement
- Informal advice or warning
- Formal advice
- Formal warning
- Referral of matter to the Architects Tribunal for an inquiry where there are concerns about an architect's fitness to practise and/or professional conduct
- Other regulatory action to mitigate risk, such as suspending or cancelling registration or approval
- Institution of prosecution proceedings for offences



#### 4. Main types of non-compliance

The regulatory response to actual or possible non-compliance may vary depending upon the type of non-compliance that has occurred. There are three main types of non-compliance:

- Unprofessional conduct:
  - Unprofessional conduct is conduct that fails to achieve the standards of professional conduct set out in the regulatory framework administered by the ARBV. Detailed professional standards obligations are contained in the Code.
- Prohibited conduct:
  - Prohibited conduct is conduct that is prohibited under the Act and offences apply for breaching these prohibitions. Prohibited conduct includes representing oneself or working as an architect when not registered by the ARBV and carrying out work as an architect without professional indemnity insurance. Similar prohibitions apply in relation to companies and partnerships.
- Other breaches of the regulatory framework:
  - The regulatory framework also includes compliance obligations that do not concern professional conduct or prohibited conduct. These obligations generally deal with registration requirements, such as the obligation to notify the ARBV if eligibility criteria for registration or approval are no longer satisfied and if there is a change to information in the Register of Architects.

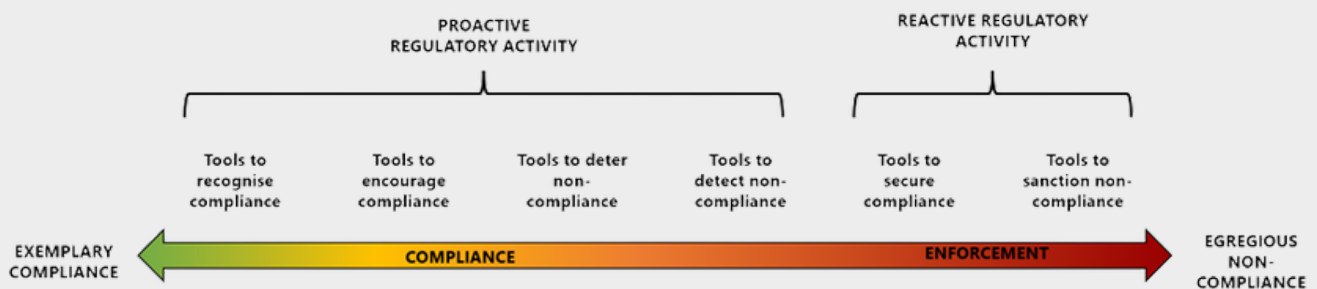
# REGULATORY APPROACH

The ARBV applies a risk-based approach when undertaking proactive and reactive regulatory activity.

This means our regulatory activities and resources are focused where the risk of non-compliance and harm to clients and users of architectural services and the broader public is greatest.

The higher the risk of non-compliance and harm, the more serious, resource intensive and timely our regulatory response.

The risk-based approach applied by ARBV is summarised below:



The ARBV’s risk-based approach ensures that compliance risk is identified, assessed and responded to in a consistent and transparent manner across proactive and reactive regulatory activities, while avoiding undue burden on regulated entities.

## COMPLAINTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Complaints can be made to the ARBV about an architect's professional conduct or fitness to practise. Notifications can be made about people or bodies who represent themselves as architects when they are not registered or approved by the ARBV.

Information about how to make a complaint or notification is available on the ARBV website and can also be obtained by telephone enquiry. The website includes information about the types of conduct about which complaints and notifications can be made and provides guidance on the information and documents that should be provided in support. The ARBV's procedures for handling complaints, notifications and investigations are also outlined on the ARBV website.

## VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE


The ARBV is prepared and eager to work with architects, approved companies and partnerships to support their efforts to comply with the regulatory framework and, thereby help ensure that regulatory standards and objectives are achieved. In fact, a core aspect of the ARBV's approach to proactive regulation is to provide regulated entities with education and assistance to enhance compliance with the regulatory framework.

Nevertheless, architects, approved partnerships and approved companies are ultimately responsible for complying with their obligations under the regulatory framework.

Proactive steps by the profession to identify and address any potential or actual non-compliance may avoid the need for the ARBV to take regulatory action. Each entity covered by the framework is encouraged to consider and review their regulatory compliance through regular review of their policies, systems and processes.





 Architects  
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[www.arbv.vic.gov.au](http://www.arbv.vic.gov.au)

**Address**

Level 10, 533 Little Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Postal Address**

PO Box 13078  
Law Courts VIC 8010

**Phone number**

03 9417 4444

**Email**

[registrar@arbv.vic.gov.au](mailto:registrar@arbv.vic.gov.au)

